



To the People of Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky.

No date

The victories of Mill Spring and Fort Henry, and the advance of the armies under Generals Buell and Grant, indicate the opening of a vigorous campaign in the West. Notwithstanding the efficiency of Secretary Stanton and our Western Generals, the Medical Department is yet unprepared for the contingencies of active service; and the moment war really begins, (and we may now expect news of battle any day,) our own gallant Western soldiers, who may suffer wounds, will find themselves without the comforts and hospital supplies they ought to have. Already only the generosity and active benevolence of individuals have saved many useful and valuable lives which otherwise would have been lost by reason of the simple inadequacy of a Government organized for domestic peace, to meet, in a limited time, all the contingencies of civil war.

The United States Sanitary Commission is an unpaid bureau, working under authority of the War Department. Its object is, by the personal inspection of competent men, to ascertain the wants of the army, and, by the volunteer services of its members as agents of a generous public, to supply them.

The undersigned constitute the Cincinnati branch of the United States Sanitary Commission. We are trying to help our Western soldiers, the brave men who, in Kentucky, Virginia and Missouri, are fighting for our protection and the restoration of the supremacy of the Constitution and laws over our whole country. One of our number is Medical Director of Gen. Nelson's division of the army in Kentucky: another commands a division of the same army. We are constantly in communication with Sanitary Commission Inspectors, who are traveling from camp to camp, and hospital to hospital, for the sole purpose of ascertaining and supplying what is wanted for the health of the soldiers; and several of our own members have visited the camps and hospitals in Western Virginia and Kentucky for the same purpose.

We ask your donations. We pledge ourselves they shall be sacredly devoted to the purpose of averting and curing disease in the army. Whenever a donor wishes a

particular direction given to his gift, we shall respect his wishes; but we try to be so advised of the wants of the soldiers, that it would be ordinarily wiser to leave the distribution of donations to our judgment.

We ask for money to pay freights, and to buy such necessary articles as are not donated, or as are given in insufficient quantity. We ask for bed-sacking, sheets, comfortables, quilts, pillow-cases, blankets, shirts, drawers, mittens, lint, bandages, canned and dried fruit, and many other articles described in our circular, which can be had by application to any of us, and which we hope in a few days to put into the hands of every postmaster in southern Ohio and Indiana, and northern Kentucky, and which explains in detail what is needed, and contains full directions for shipping.

No time is to be lost. Every day brings new danger, increased sickness and death. Upon the lives of our soldiers depends the security of our homes, the success of our cause, the future hopes of free government. They are in the field for us; shall we rest quietly in safe homes, and let them sicken and die, without an effort to help them? We appeal to you for their aid. By so doing, you help yourselves: but even if you did not, you aid your beloved country, and the cause of constitutional free government.

We ask that out of his abundance every man should remember the wants of the army; that in every neighborhood, societies of loyal women shall work for the soldiers. The East has done very much for the cause. The expense of the Inspectors now in Kentucky searching out and relieving the wants of the army, are paid with money given in the Eastern cities. From Philadelphia and New York large quantities of hospital supplies have been sent to St. Louis. The West must not be behind. We have never yet been reproached for want of liberality. In this most sacred emergency, let us not, by falling behind our Eastern brethren in gifts and generous labor, lose any part of our ancient good name.

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